

## ANALYSIS OF ARCHIVES DOCUMENTS RELATING TO DR. ALEXIS H. DAVISON

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10/21/69  
Draft

I think that this is one of those relatively rare cases where it pays to go through the documents as carefully and skeptically as possible. Lots of speculation and paranoia. Here goes: (I assume you have copies of the documents)

CD 87, SS 569, 2 pp. I would assume that the background information in paragraphs 2 and 3 is from SAIC Wentz' personal knowledge or a check of the newspapers - just the sort of useful material the FBI likes to leave out. One problem is that it is sometimes hard to tell what came from Davison and what from Wentz. I would guess that the reference to the date of Oswald's return in the last sentence was made by Wentz.

It is not surprising that Davison remembers nothing of the Oswalds. What he is sure of is that his mother's address was given out in connection with his medical examinations. That is, although it is not made explicit, it was not given to Oswald in connection with his other duties.

The description of Mrs. Davison as the widow of one of Atlanta's most prominent physicians pretty well shoots down the image of a poor little old lady with no one to talk to. It's possible that a Russian who served as a nurse with the British in the post-revolutionary intervention had mellowed and would have liked to talk with a young, not anti-communist Russian pharmacist and her schmucky American husband. Maybe, maybe not.

At the time of interview, Davison knew that Oswald had not contacted his mother. Had there been news stories mentioning this listing in the notebook? Davison's inquiry of his mother could also have been prompted by information provided by the SS [redacted] when they asked for an interview, or it might have come from some other source.

Four days after this interview, FBI agent Harding interviewed Mrs. Davison. (CD 235) As usual, what is not in this 13-line report is more interesting than what is. The reader does not learn (a) that Mrs. Davison's address is in fact in Oswald's notebook (it is presented as possible that Alexis gave it to LHO) (This is not atypical for FBI reports.); (b) that Alexis was expelled for spying; (c) most significantly, that Alexis was, at the time of the interview, practicing medicine in Atlanta. Harding could easily have located him for an interview; he did not.

CD 337, p. 4: A couple of weeks after the Harding interview was typed, the New York FBI office was trying to "locate and interview" Davison. Note that none of the description provided in the first sentence could have come either from the notebook listing or from Harding's report. Presumably someone did a little "intelligence" work; all that was required was probably a couple of phone calls. But at this time someone was interested in talking to Davison. I don't quite see where the address (presumably Peter H. is Alexis H.'s brother) came from; and it would seem that the air force could have provided Davison's Atlanta address immediately. It probably wasn't the job of the N.Y. office to look in an Atlanta phone book; maybe they assumed that the Atlanta office had been unable to locate Davison. (Page 3 of this CD, which GRS sent me in February, is unrelated.)

CD 409, p. 3. Very interesting. From the top: the January 4 date certainly should be February 4. Harding does not elicit any information about the period of Davison's assignment to Moscow, USSR, or the circumstances of his departure. Much more discreet than the SS. "A few months ago" was in fact 19 months (May 1962), and certainly couldn't have been less than 7 months, when Davison left Moscow. It is not suspicious that Davison's memory has improved since the SS interview, but he certainly does remember the right things. "Two children" - Marina, of course, had only one at the time of the examination, but two at the time of the assassination. Davison recalls quite a bit of the details of the conversation. "He stated that if he should go through Atlanta ..." - The initial "he" is a bit ambiguous. Oswald or Davison? Which is less likely? Of course, giving Oswald a more active role tends to take Davison off the hook.

Wall  
parallel

mail  
Bureau

defect?

DAVISON CD's -2-

The important information which Davison does not volunteer and is not asked about is why he gave his mother's address to Oswald. Evidently, this is not the sort of thing he did often, since this is the only such instance he recalls. If he did it only once, there must have been some special reason. It is possible that he was especially attracted to Marina (or Lee), but pretty unlikely. I wonder how well-known and discussed the Oswald case was among Embassy personnel at this time?

CD 1115: Item 103 is just 1 page, as reproduced in CE 2705. Weisberg points out that it looks like the cover of a file; there may be more related documents in CD 1114. Item 102 is unrelated (Byron Phillips affidavit); Item 103 is a Russian language questionnaire from the U.S. Embassy; it might be on medical matters, but I haven't found out yet.

The above includes all the documents from the Davison name file(s). The only further information I would suggest gathering is whatever was in the Atlanta papers at the time of the Penkovsky affair, or perhaps at the time of the assassination, relating to Davison.

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*Kellings MR 12/9/63*